



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

February 10, 2015

STATEMENT OF LYNN WARD, PRESIDENT & CEO of the WATERBURY REGIONAL CHAMBER for the TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE on S.B. 198, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES and RAISED BILL 6682, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF NEW AND USED CAR DEALERS.

Senator Leone, Representative Guerrero and members of Transportation Committee, thank you for incorporating my statement regarding Senate Bill 198, An Act Concerning Electric Cars, and Raised Bill 6682, An Act Concerning The Licensing Of New And Used Car Dealers into the public record on this legislation. The Waterbury Regional Chamber, which serves 13 towns in the Greater Waterbury region and represents the collective interests of nearly 1,000 businesses in matters of public policy and economic development, opposes both bills.

The Waterbury Regional Chamber counts 16 automotive retailers, with nearly 300 employees, within our membership and supports the state's current franchise model. Automotive retailers support thousands of jobs in Connecticut and are strong corporate citizens that are active in their respective communities, including greater Waterbury. However, just as the state's franchise laws promote competition, they also serve to protect consumers. This bill would put the franchise model at risk and negatively impact automotive retailers and Connecticut consumers.

The Waterbury Regional Chamber recognizes the importance of ensuring that automobile repairs are accessible at convenient locations throughout the state. We also value the importance of maintaining competition in the marketplace. Both these key components of the current franchise model would be jeopardized by Senate Bill No. 198 and Raised Bill No. 6682.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Lynn G. Ward
President & CEO